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Title: Yew Times #9

Author: Yew Town Council

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## CURRENT NEWS

YEW PULLS SELF UP BY BOOTSTRAPS DURING HARD TIMES

Without a heir to the throne and a lack of sales, many towns such as Britian, Haven, and Magincia are finding their citizens without jobs. People are just not purchasing as much as they once had, and what little gold that has been collected, has been allocated into maintenance of buildings rather than salaries when sales are lagging. Many owners endured as long as they possibly could, but were forced to dismiss workers and work those menial jobs themselves. When we ask how a little town of Yew had managed to keep everyone employed, we received a simple answer, "Distilleries". A monk informed us that the distillation process was a long guarded secret and for many years was producing the coveted liqours generating extra profit for the lands. At the Ye Olde Winery both wine and liquor was produced, with wine sales being greater in volume. When times started to get hard and purchases of the pricier liquors began to decline, the monks decided to market the designs for the

distillation process to the tinkers for a tidy sum of gold which in turn was placed back into the Yew economy. As Brother Alexander stated, "We support all who live in the lands of Yew. We need our farmers to tend our grapes as well as for the food on our daily table. We need our fletchers for their bows to hunt game as well as to provide safety from the orcs and undead. We have our furtraders to help us keep warm during cold weather, and our bakers to fill our bellies. Gold from the crown coffers supports the Court of Truth, but the Empath Abbey is maintained by our wine sales. The invention of the distillery was passed down many years ago by a Brother Ansalm's grandfather who is with us no longer, but his grandson is one of the key distributors of the wine to the towns who order it. We hear that the elves from Heartwood are similarly affected and have have taken advantage of the situation by marketing the design for the raised garden beds prominently displayed throughout Heartwood. We been assisting the other towns as best as we can. but we do not know how long our funds will hold out. What we do know is that we need some order to return to the lands to reduce some of the burden.

"These distilleries are a blight on our land, and I will drive them out!", roared Antonia Crier to an assembly of her followers at the Britain town hall. The crowd exhorted her with cries of "Smash the distilleries!" and "End the madness!" Crier continued, "Since the free distribution of these devices into the hands of the public, we have seen no less than a free-for-all continuous binge at the cost of civic sensibility and decorum. There seems to be no shame anymore, as seemingly respectable persons cavort about vomiting in the streets in various states of undress, with nary a care about the example that they are setting. Give one of the many unemployed a coin, and he will spend it on one of these newly fermented spirits rather than his own shelter or sustenance. Have we so quickly forgotten the incident of the two young men whose fishing trip turned to murder because of demon spirits, or of the barfly who gave birth to a pickled baby, delivered by a score of drunken patrons? The time for talk is over. This poison has polluted the minds of the populace and no manner of persuasive argument will turn them away from their addiction! It is time for direct action! It is time we shut down these murder mills!" FINAL POLLY HARPER **BOOK GETS POOR** RECEPTION

HB Krenshaw released the seventh and final ending to his Polly Harper series to an audience of horrified and outraged fans following his own life threatening ordeal. Krenshaw was delivering a final copy of the manuscript to his publisher, when he was waylaid by bandits and left for dead. A would-be benefactor would later discover him and carry him to her isolated cabin, nursing him to health over the following weeks. But the goodwill did not last as the writer claimed that his benefactor had a complete change of heart when she had read the manuscript; particularly the horrible deaths of Polly and her companions. Krenshaw tried to explain to the nurse that he had written himself into a corner in the previous book by transporting his knights-in-training characters into the midst of an army of the undead. He stated that if he had written his characters as magic users, they might have been able to escape by some clever magical means. However, Polly and her friends were nothing more than a bunch of pages with no formal combat training who had gotten in way over their heads, and he had no recourse but to give them an honorable, if not violent death. Krenshaw claimed that the nurse would have none of it and determined that he would rewrite the ending to her satisfaction. After a failed attempt at escape, Krenshaw's captor broke

his ankles with a sledgehammer to prevent any future escape until the new manuscript could be completed. Krenshaw was later able to make a daring escape when his captor had departed to purchase scrolls from the mage shop, leaving the new manuscript unfinished. He would then submit the original copy to his publisher. When we asked one of his many fans about how she felt about the final book, a disappointed Lisa Tanner stated, "If he doesn't rewrite this thing, I'll break his legs myself." Advertisements

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